



Q T C

S.O.W.P. NEWSLETTER

Adventures & Experiences of Professional Brass Pounders Around the World



JUNE 1988

VOX SECRETARIAT

My expectations for topping the 5000-members mark as expressed in March have been fulfilled. As of this month, 4,825 regular and 270 technical associate memberships have been acknowledged, for a total of 5,095, a lot of common interest in brass-pounding. Like the mighty oak from an acorn, it didn't happen overnight.

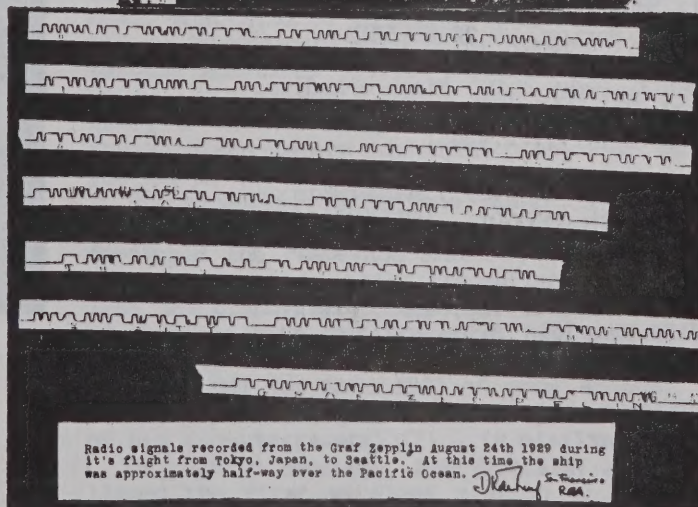
The oft-asked question today is, "Where to from here?" With willingness to help and enthusiasm evident in every member with whom I've had contact, we will continue to occupy a place of leadership among the many communication societies now in existence. We'll dig deep for the history of the profession among our old-timers, and encourage our current chapters to hold regular innovative meetings. We'll urge Ham dropouts to renew their licenses or just plain get back on the air if they've kept them current --how better to relive some of the "old days" than to sit down for a live CW rag-chew? Some of us elders might just pick up a few tricks from our more youthful members.

Many upbeat suggestions have been coming in to the secretary's desk. We'll keep your QTC NEWSLETTER coming, and we're updating the membership list with intent to publish a new "Wireless Register" and "SOWP Amateur Radio Callbook." Bill Breniman is working on another issue of Sparks Journal. Members can help by sending in letters and reminiscences, and news of current happenings. We are going through our list, recording a "code line" above each name that will list your member number and dues status. You should see it on the September mailing label, but at least we'll promise it for the December issue. In the meantime, if you feel your dues may have lapsed, don't wait for the label notation. Write for our surprisingly easy reinstatement plan. And don't worry, we'll extend your current date if you jump the gun a few months.

I try to answer your letters promptly, as I'm sure your editors do likewise. Keep

the articles and newsy letters coming, to paraphrase Perry Como's old show-closing slogan. Except for the activity on the NETs there is no other ready way of receiving the much needed input.

--Paul, W6WOW



QTC SOWP NEWSLETTER

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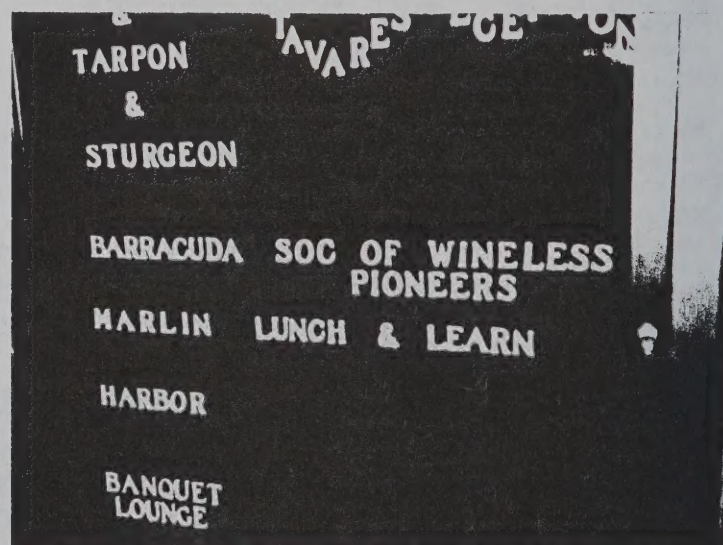
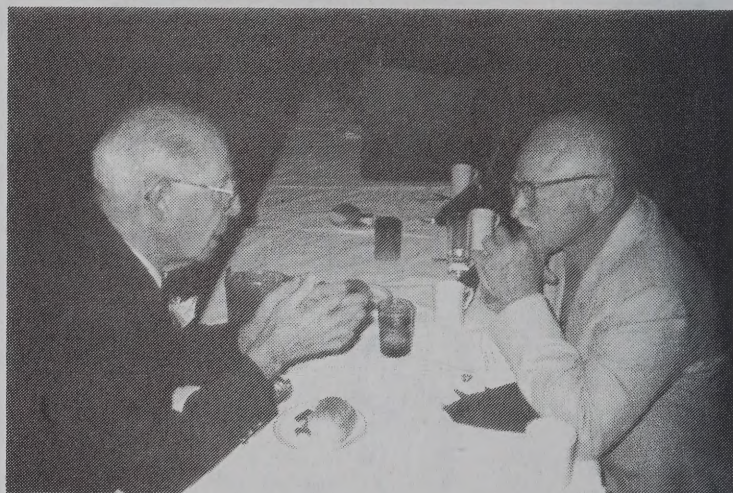
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With only glasses of water and cups of coffee in the foreground, befitting a dry-status announcement appearing on the board in the hotel lobby, Bill Breniman and Walt Boyd discuss future SOWP publications at the Golden Gate Chapter Spring 1988 luncheon meeting; Roy Couzins, host.

MSG's TO THE EDITOR

From Nova Scotia, Canada:

Dear Ed:

QTC is most enjoyable...looking forward to future issues! Here's a couple of items:

My friend Harry Steer, age 84, with whom I chat almost daily, served as R/O in several ships of the Canadian Merchant Service and Canadian Govt Patrol Boats during the '30s and '40s. His radio certificate is dated 1931, and he pounded CW brass keys for nearly 40 years. He served at Station VCA in Montreal in later years, a real old-timer, roughly a generation before my time.

I have often asked Harry for a detailed story of his life as a radio op, but his stock answer is "That's ancient history."

In our historical old Halifax seaport, the retired Canadian Hydrographic Survey Ship (CHSS) ACADIA / CGCB is tied up at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic pier, now a museum piece. Tourists may visit the radio room and see a Marconi M/F LTT4 transmitter and MSL5 receiver, an MDF5 direction finder and a spark-gap emergency transmitter. The receiver is operational for the benefit of visitors on deck.

The radio room will be manned by as many volunteer ex-licensed shipboard radio ops of that era as can be found. Yours truly will be on hand, of course, but it is surprising how few veteran R/O types can be located.

The CHSS ACADIA was built in 1913, of steel construction, length 170 ft, beam 33 and draft 12 ft., and was active for fifty years.

--R.F. Latimer, 2521-V, VELBPP

(Thanks, Russ! Your old-timer friend sounds like a lively prospect for membership in SOWP. And some of us tourists will stop by the ACADIA, now that we know where she's berthed. --Ed.)

* * *

LAST OF THE SEALAND SHIPS

"SEA-LAND KODIAK, the last of the three container ships built at BayShip shipyards, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, was on trials on Lake Michigan from October 28 through 31, 1987. Meanwhile the second, SEA-LAND TACOMA, was scheduled to depart from Tacoma, WA on October 3, 1987 for her first trip to Alaska. With the completion of the Sea-Land contract, things are grim at BayShip with many lay-offs and the elimination of the entire engineering department by Dec. 31, 1987." --From Lake Log Chips newsletter, Nov. 14, 1987.

(A story on national TV evening news for November 10, 1987, called SEA-LAND KODIAK "...the last ship built for the U.S. merchant marine. No rescue by the government appears likely." --Ed.)

* * *

SHIPMATES - "AHoy!"

Here is an update for the MARCH QTC listing. If your name belongs with these mentioned, let us hear from you. We'll try for a complete, current list by December 88.

** William A. Nye, 2822-V, W6LXP, M/V OMI Sacramento, RED. FS SS Columbia 1944. Age76

** Charles F. Murray, 3196-V, KZ2B, T/S State of Maine/WIWI, outbound Maine 5/6/88.

** Chuck Montanese, 4034-M, KLUDH, S/T Cove Leader/WHGY, outbound from Portland, Ore.

** Henry Kudian, 0341-V, ARAL673, 71, retired SS Fortaleza, PRIMI Lines, 11/85.

** Carl E. Young, 2371-M, K5HK, M/T Adonis/WZHK (Relief Opr., 6-88).

* * *

OFF-WATCH BOOKS

For those of us who like to delve into the history of our profession, and at the same time enjoy the biographical details of the life of one of our respected pioneers, "Genius at Riverhead" by Alberta I. Wallen is a timely opportunity. Published this year, 1988, the North Haven Historical Society, Maine, at \$15.95, this well-done hard-cover 128-page book is a fitting nonfiction off-watch companion volume to the novel above, since North Haven is an island about 12 miles offshore and the principle subject was and is a wireless pioneer.

At age 13, Harold Beverage not so much ran away from home as made an unannounced trip to the mainland. His purpose: to discover what kind of equipment made it possible to communicate with ships at sea. Good fortune sometimes favors youthful runaways. He met a wireless operator who took him aboard a docked freighter and demonstrated its wireless before his eyes. He, even as you and I, was "hooked."

Subsequently, among his many contributions to the art and science of radio, he developed the "Beverage Antenna," which became prominent in early transatlantic wireless telegraphy and telephony. If by chance or because of your penchant for saving everything written about early wireless, you have QST for Nov. 1922 on your shelves, check page 7 for an engineering treatment of his antenna.

Dr. Harold Beverage, SOWP Hon.#14, established the first wireless station in South America. His antenna is in use to this day in the far North, when the only reliable

transmissions are long-wave, and in underground and underwater ELF communication.

I thoroughly enjoyed this well-written book, and unhesitatingly commend it to your attention. It should be purchased by your public librarian for the reference shelves, and for your own shelves if you enjoy reading about our members' exploits.

* * *

The Nymph and the Lamp, by Thomas H. Rad-dall. New Canadian Library N38, McClelland and Stewart, 1982.

I can't remember when I've been so utterly absorbed in a novel as with this paperback of the strange name. In retrospect it seemed at first to have been because the story is intimately concerned with the lives of the old spark-gap wireless ops on ship and shore. But the author must be given his due --the writing is superlative, in that you become lost in the story and each page and paragraph flows so smoothly from description to excitement that you are carried from beginning to end in a sort of reverie. And if you have been a radioman at the key and phones, you find tears in your eyes quite unexpectedly, and at other times your heart beats faster as you share the protagonist's danger, and the urgency of bringing help to a foundering ship. Finally, the exultation that follows the success of a hard-fought challenge is felt as your difficulty in swallowing.

This is the first novel ever, for me, that is written entirely around the world of wireless. And as you might have guessed, the author was himself an op "of the old school." Unlike most of our fraternity of brass pounders, this radioman became a superlative wordsmith. The Nymph and the Lamp is an eloquent account of three men and a woman who pounded brass. Consider this passage that follows a piano-playing session during a brief, rare social gathering on the wind swept island setting:

"He had none of the mannerisms of the pianist and there was something oddly familiar in his attitude on the stool, the strong figure tense, the head and shoulders drawn forward, the eyes at once dreamy and alert. It occurred to Isabel that it was the characteristic attitude of all radio men, their hands busy before them, their eyes on something miles beyond the panel of the instrument; and again she had that whimsy that they were not as other men but a separate creation, cursed or gifted with a power of throwing their souls into space."

And this passage, during Isabel's early introduction to the art of hand-keying:

"At first the great passenger liners were beyond her grasp. They shrilled away on high notes like operatic sopranos, and at speeds close to thirty words a minute. The smaller liners and the tramps were more companionable, droning along at twenty or so; and frequently there were trawlers, rolling scuppers-under out there somewhere on the Banks and muttering away to each other at a childish ten or fifteen. The trawlers were Isabel's kindergarten class, and after a time she could follow the drift of tramp steamer conversations, watching her companion's pencil for the letters she missed."

And one last quotation, since this reviewer will not risk spoiling a beautiful story by attempting a precis:

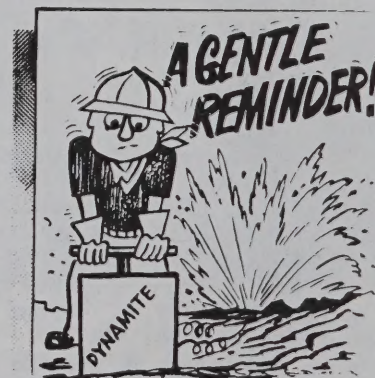
"Once you've stood a busy watch or two the code is yours for keeps. After that it's simply a language that you know, that you can't forget if you tried. By jingo, you'll think in dots and dashes for the rest of your life!"

I have Robert Kreisinger, 2534-SGP, to thank for bringing this highly recommendable book to my attention. A letter to the publisher to inquire about availability has, as of press time, brooked no reply. It may well be out of print, even though it is listed as one of the New Canadian Library series. If you can beg, borrow or cadge a copy, or perhaps convince the publisher to reprint the book by a flurry of letters, you will be amply rewarded. The address:

McClelland and Stewart, Ltd.,
25 Hollinger Road, Toronto, CANADA.

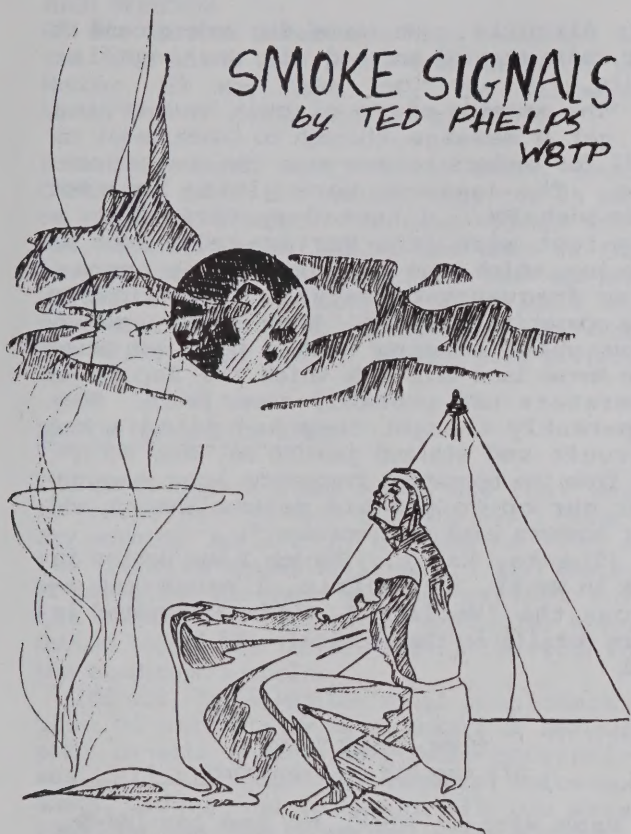
--WTB

* * *



SMOKE SIGNALS

by TED PHELPS
WBTP



TWX RESEARCH PROJECT

Arnold J. Madiol, 2193-V, WD8JIV, 436 Orchard Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417 is looking for a loan of genuine Western Union Telegrams, 1948 through 1960, or photocopies thereof. "I will return them to you, repay your postage, send you a bonus of data and list of items to swap. The same for cables, radiograms, telegrams via the old Postal Telegraph or any other company of any date. Also looking for a copy or photocopy of the tech manual of the W.U. multiplex TAPE printer and teleprinter or automatic (mux) operator's manuals by W.U. —any issues before 1930. I am seeking to learn what offices had how many channels to others during the reperforator era and their office calls. —73."

* * *

CAT CALL

From the SOWP Capital Area CW Net on May 14th came the following check-in remarks by SOWP member George Favre, W3PEVN:

"Can't stay for net today. Have to take my cat to the vet to have stitches removed from her operation — 73."

NCS Em Mehrling, W4NH, then excused George, with good wishes.

* * *

SILENT KEY SEQUEL

Bill Burnette, 1666-V, W7UNE sends in the following:

"Re Silent Key Thomas F. Clark, 248-SGP (QTC March 1988):

"On a rainy day in February, 1942, I reported to my first duty station NAS Tongue Point (Astoria), Oregon. Like most newly graduated radiomen, I had learned everything and was ready to display my skills.

"Fortunately, my first chief was Chief Radioman Thomas F. Clark. He was soft-spoken but stern, demanding yet compassionate, a tough taskmaster, yet fatherly and respected by all.

"He later attained the rank of Lieutenant, but I always thought of him as 'The Chief.' None outranked him in the thoughts of many who knew him.

"Thomas Clark received many honors and gave much to the field of radio communications, but his greatest contribution was the positive influence which he had on the people who knew him.

"My sincere thanks and -Farewell to 'The Chief.' —Bill Burnette"

* * *

FCC TO RESTRUCTURE AMATEUR RULES

A proposed restructuring of Part 97 of its Rules for the Amateur Radio Service has been announced by the FCC.

The rules revision proposal, detailed in Federal Register for April 19, 1988, calls for amending the present Part 97 into six subparts and four appendices which seek to create a regulatory environment that will encourage modern techniques, technology and uses of amateur radio. Rather than to govern the Amateur Radio Service by detailed rules and specifications, FCC says it wishes to preserve the flexibility of a Service "...free to branch out and follow an infinite number of paths... Our regulatory approach is to state the basic requirements that each amateur operator and station must observe."

FCC seeks comments on its proposal, NPRM Docket 88-139. The comment period closes August 31, 1988 and reply comments October 31, 1988.

The new proposal consists of nearly 100 typewritten pages which have been typeset by the Department of Commerce. (Foregoing digested from the W5YI Report for May 1, 1988.)

Suggestion: Your Congressman or Senator may be able to secure for you a copy of the FCC proposal.

—W8TP

* * *

HARRY TURNER'S STORY

On April 30, 1988, members of the Morse Telegraph Club celebrated the 144th anniversary of the world's first telegraph message. Forty-three U.S. and five Canadian MTC chapters were represented in the event, by making landline telegraph contact with each other. They used the American Morse or "railroad code" rather than the International Code familiar to radio operators.

One of the Morse stations, with call sign "AT" was located in the home of Harry A. Turner, 3047-P, W9YZE, Alton, Illinois. Harry is perhaps best known as the operator who, in 1943, established the world record for transmitting by hand key a speed of 35 words per minute in the International (radio) Code. The event is described in the 1981 Guinness Book of World Records.

Harry reports that the anniversary is an event which has been held for several years. "...Western Union furnishes the microwave wire free of charge and pays the telephone company" to hook their wires to the residential special station.

"I have the wire in my home," he says, as do "65 members scattered across the USA" along with two others in Alton. "Every year on the Anniversary I give them free lunch... This year I had 13 guests, one from Memphis, TN, others from near Chicago, southern Illinois, and St. Louis. Most were retired telegraph operators, but some amateurs are learning the railroad code and are joining the MIC."

Harry learned telegraphy "...when I was 10, on a short-line around the small town of Lowder, Illinois, about 25 airline miles south of Springfield. We had several stations on the line. My three brothers all were Morse men. I went to work on the railroad at 14 --can't do that now but it was ok then. I got out of railroading in 1934, got my ham ticket, worked at several jobs until I retired.

"I served four years in the Naval Reserve from 1936 to 1940, then went into the Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1945. That's where I set the world record for hand-key sending. ...would have been faster in American Morse where 11 letters and all numerals and punctuation marks are different."

Harry is also known for an operations trick he used in the Solomon Islands campaign in World War II. When he went overseas, he took along a radio device called a "Variarm." It was, in today's terms, a VFO. He describes how he used it to decoy some Japanese operators:

"The Japanese were only about six miles from us, on the other side of the island of Bougainville, and gave us a lot of QRM on

our circuits. We were dug underground at our radio station and had six working circuits.

"The operator of one circuit was trying to get a message through to Guadalcanal to call for bombers to come over the next morning. The Japanese were giving him a hot time with QRM... I hooked my Variarm to a ten-foot wire (the Variarm had a lever at the top, which when moved caused the operating frequency to vary). I sat right on the operating frequency, then slowly moved down while sending with a bug, but using the Morse land wire code which the Japanese operators had probably never heard. They apparently thought they had found a hot circuit and started jamming me. They strayed from the operating frequency long enough for our op to get his message through and our bombers came next morning."

(Thanks, Harry. Though I was active in ECM in WW-II, SW Pacific, I never ran across the "Variarm." I'd be interested in more details on that device! --Ed.)

ØM1

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WLHRQ LOSES TOWER
Off the Air on Transcons

Hank Warner, WLHRQ, has lost his 100-ft. tower, valued at \$6000. The mishap occurred in late May, 1988, during the lowering of the fold-over portion of the tower, topped by Hank's large Telrex 20-meter monoband beam antenna.

The tower normally is guyed in several places, including its mid-section. During a foldover operation, which must support the heavy antenna, the guys stabilize the entire structure. During this lowering, however, a guy fastened to the mid-section of the tower was not secured to its ground anchor hidden away in the brush adjoining the antenna plot.

Lacking the support of the guywire, the weight of the foldover portion of the tower was too great for the base of the structure. The entire tower then ripped loose from its large concrete base and collapsed to the ground where it is now a skeleton of twisted metal. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Although the tower collapse will keep WLHRQ off the air until Fall for the 20-meter TRANSCON net schedules, Hank has a 50-ft tower which will be used to support a sloper antenna for 40 meters. He expects to maintain the schedule for the Saturday morning Yankee - East Coast Net. During the interval when WLHRQ will be forced to omit TRANSCON schedules, it is expected that volunteers will operate those nets at their regular Tuesday and Thursday times (see net schedule sheet).

* * *

HIGH SPEEDERS

Of six persons submitting copy received in the 60th WLNJM Code Speed Test which ran on Monday, 23 May 1988 UTC, the following three sent in enough copy to qualify:

Robert C. Cheek, W3VT, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, submitted perfect copy for 45 WPM on his first attempt. The other 45 WPM winner, Everett Vaux, W9DCE, has been in the program several years; he won the 40 WPM certificate in November, 1987. Jack R. Robinson, KV1E, also submitting copy for the first time, won at 40 WPM with perfect copy.

DAYTON HAMVENTION 1988

The crowd topped 30,000 again, but that was no surprise. We were there by 06:15 Saturday morning, April 29th, in time to find a few parking spaces still open. Good weather prevailed the whole weekend, perfect for the hordes of flea-market explorers, since Dayton boasts the largest such gathering in the electronics world.

Indoors, there was the usual conglomeration of exhibits by major makers of amateur gear, as well as many, many small enterprises selling computers, hardware, software, books, badges and bargains (if you were lucky). We found no really new equipment displayed or ballyhooed. The talk sessions ran true to form, from packet radio to Wayne Green's own show.

Worthwhile? Definitely yes, as we had a fine day just poking around and meeting some old friends. And this year, our pocketbook came home intact! --TKP

* * *

GEARVAKf - A DAYTON TRADITION

This prestigious (?) organization had its familiar bulletin in distribution. We quote excerpts from an article on a FIRE which did major damage to the amateur bands earlier this year:

"Finally, after three hours, the FCC had the fire under control. Most HF bands were back in operation by next day; however, 20 meters was closed for more than eight weeks while the charred frequencies were being refurbished. Since that time, studies have been made on the fire and its possible causes.

"One such study by Dr. Eugene Peritonitis, Chmn, Consultative Committee on Frequency Damage, indicated that the cause might have been due to thermofrequency heating (TFH). The FCC has (therefore) promised to install a sprinkler system on the band to prevent another disaster. With the advent of deregulation, however, the sprinklers were never installed and 20 meters has no protection. For that reason, all hams

should use extreme care when using 20 meters and all other bands. They are a perishable resource. Don't use high power on any band, or use a mode that might ignite a frequency, particularly during openings when the frequencies are especially dry. Remember, only you can prevent band fires!"

GEARVAKf stands for the Greater Enon Amateur Radio Vention And Kite -lying (the "f" is silent), a highly unofficial gathering of radio amateurs from Enon, Ohio. Write Joe Ventolo, K8DMZ, 356 Coronado Tr., Enon, OH 45323. Our thanks to GEARVAKf for the above report.

* * *

HIGH-SPEED CODE PRACTICE

This is "Operation Catch-Up" for our high-speed CW practice program conducted by George Hart, W1NJM and Bill Smith, K6DYX. A 60th Certification Run was conducted by both stations on Sunday, May 23, 1988 (Monday, May 24, UTC).

Correction to the announcement in MARCH 1988 QTC: Certification tests are run in steps at speeds from 40 through 60 wpm, 65 wpm not included.

The successful certificate winners in the 59th Certification Run, Sunday, Nov. 15, 1987 (Monday, Nov. 16, UTC) are as follows:

FIFTY WPM:

Robert V. McGraw, SOWP 2356-V, W2LYH, who submitted his 30th certification test copy.

FORTY WPM:

Dennis Benischek, ND7M, 1st test.
Jack Erwin, VE3BHW, 1st test.
Ben A. Green, NQ2H, 1st test.
Marshall S. Killen, VE3KK, 1st test.
Charles P. Krause, 1412-V, N7ESJ 3rd.
Everett W. Vaux, 1941-P, W9DCE, 23rd certificate.

Congratulations to all! Why not try your skill in this on-going program? Practice-run schedule listed elsewhere.

* * *

Earl H. Selover, 3804-P, W4IPF, Net Director, 1200 Fordyce Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23320, brings us up to date on The Pearl Harbor Survivors Amateur Radio Net which he founded in July, 1981 with 16 survivors with valid amateur radio licenses.

The roster now lists more than 200 members throughout the 50 States and Australia. Most net members have joined the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. All survivors are invited to join in net operations.

The following operating schedule times are shown in Eastern local time:

Tues & Thurs 14.283 MHz at 11:30.
Tues, Thurs, Sat 21.363 MHz at 15:00.
Wednesdays 7.280 MHz at 09:45.
Mon-Fri 14.065 MHz CW at 16:00.

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SOWP NETS & SCHEDULES

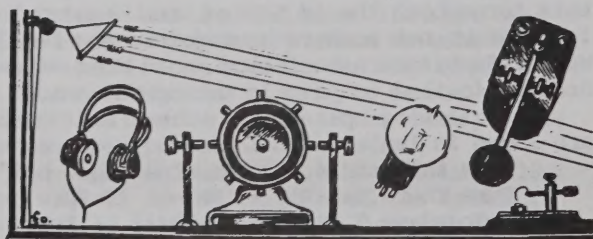
EFFECTIVE: JUNE 15, 1988

| NET NAME | DAY | TIME | TZ | FREQ. | NCS | ANCS |
|--|-----------|---|-----|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| TRANS-CONTINENTAL (Oscar Harrison) | THU | 1000 | E | 14115 | W1HRQ-Hank | W8CCN-Tom |
| TRANS-CONTINENTAL II | TUE | 1000 | E | 14115 | W1HRQ-Hank | W8CCN-Tom |
| TRANS-CONTINENTAL/30 (SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO RESTART, PSE CONTACT W8TP) | | | | | | |
| VANCOUVER B.C. (Mobile Visitors) | Daily | 0915- 1000 | P | 147.54 FM | VE7AAT-Art | VE7YL- Elizabeth |
| TRANS-PACIFIC | THU | 2100 | P | 14010 | | W6EB-Elmer |
| VK3DGC Net | Daily | 0700 | Z | 14055 | PA0GL-Cor | |
| PICKERILL | MON | 0900 | E | 3670 | W3FYD-Jack | K2IC-Earl |
| " | Start MON | 1000 | E | FM 146.97 | W2EEQ-Russ | (Mt. Carmel) |
| " | QSY " | " | " | FM 145.135 | (Don Masten Memorial Net) | |
| " | SAT | 1000 | E | 3670 | W3FYD-Jack | K2IC-Earl |
| " | (SSB) SUN | 1400 | E | 3913 | K2IC-Earl | K3AGT-Tom |
| SOUTHEASTERN | SUN | 1400 | E | 7055 | K4TF-Bill | K4HDV-Dan |
| SOUTHWESTERN | TUE | 0830 | M | 7055 | W5RM- Pres | |
| | WED | 1900 | M | 3555 | W6NVN-George | W3IDO-Hal |
| RICHARD JOHNSTONE (No.) | THU | 2000 | P | 3555 | NCS rotates weekly | W6BNB- |
| (Pacific Coast) (So.) | FRI | 1530 | P | 7084 | Bob; N6FZE-Pete; | K6ZUR- |
| -Suspend Operation June to September- | | | | | | |
| HAPPY HOUR (No. Calif) | M-F | 1700 | P | 3947.5 | W6BFU-Jess | W6TQU-Hap |
| (SSB) (So. Calif) | M-F | 1630 | P | 3947.5 | W6UBM-Al | K6AAG-Robbie |
| YANKEE/EAST COAST | SAT | 0930 | E | 7040 | W1HRQ-Hank | |
| CAPITAL AREA | SAT | 0900 | E | 3665 | W4NH-Em | W4HU-John |
| (SSB) | TUE | 1000 | E | 3966 | W4NH-Em | W4HU-John |
| JACK BINNS (Nov-Feb) | TUE | 1700 | P | 3555 | VE7CHE-Ted | WA7CJV-Viggo |
| " (Mar-Oct) | " | 2000 | P | " | " | " |
| INLAND SEAS | MON | 1800 | C | 7040 | W8TP-Ted | ANCS needed |
| | MON | 1900 | C | 3555 | W8TP-Ted | ANCS needed |
| (40m & 80m | | Suspend operation July & August; Resume Sept 5) | | | | |
| (160m [Oct.-May]) | MON | 2000 | C | 1815 | W8TP-Ted | >Resumes Oct. 10) |
| SWISS (Edelweiss) | SUN | 1015 | L** | 7027 | HB9XJ-Hans | HB9BYO-Harald |
| **Local Swiss Time | | | | | | |
| GONZALES | WED | 2030 | P | 3520 | VE7DBJ-Dave | VE7ZH-Len |

- HIGH SPEED CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULES -

George Hart, W1NJM, regularly conducts high speed practice and certification tests sponsored by SOWP throughout the year on Monday and Thursday at 0130 UTC (Sunday and Wednesday Eastern Time) on 3523 and 7023 kHz. From December thru April, the schedule is maintained from W1NJM/4. Certification tests are held on the third Monday of May and November. On the practice runs, speeds are from 20-65 wpm in various increments, decrements and sequences as announced by W1NJM. Speeds for the certification tests are from 40 through 60 wpm in 5 wpm steps. W. Conley Smith, K6DYX, gives certification tests at the same time as W1NJM on 3520 and 7020 khz. and at the same speeds. Smitty, however, no longer conducts practice runs. Attractive SOWP certificates are awarded to successful participants.

NOTE: Send changes/corrections to T. K. Phelps, VP Communications, SOWP, W8TP, 6289-Old Orchard Dr., Columbus, OH. 43213 USA. Tel: 614-866-6289.



THE YL SCENE

by Olive J. Roeckner
VE7ERA

For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of our Society is the special friendships I have made over the months and years, on the air and by letters. Recently I have had the pleasure of getting to know our newest YL SOWP member, Alice Mitchell, 4742-V, of England.

From the age of six until the day she retired, there was always a uniform in Alice's closet. On her sixth birthday she joined the Brownies and it was her Dad, formerly of the Royal Navy, who made Alice proficient in tying knots and nurtured her avid interest in semaphore.

Eventually Alice traded her Brownie uniform for the blue one of the Guides; it was then she experienced for the first time the thrill of Morse code. At first the girls sent by flags, using two different methods. Bicycle lamps also came into use as an early type of Aldis lamp. The Guide Company acquired a key and oscillator, and Alice was really hooked.

As WW-II began Alice graduated beyond Guide and was the first Sea Ranger enrolled into Sea Ranger Crew S.R.S. Thames. War-time left them very little chance of acquiring equipment of their own, but fortunately the National Sea Training School in Gravesend, commissioned to train men for the Merchant Navy, decided to adopt them as students. The Rangers had use of all the equipment, but everything the boys learned about seamanship the girls also had to learn. Boxing the compass, Manual of Seamanship, rowing, sailing, flags, knotting, splicing with wire all came their way, but code remained Alice's main interest.

WREN FLEDGLING

As she reached her 17th birthday, Alice knew in a few months she would be called-up into the A.T.S. (Army) or W.A.A.F. (Royal Air Force). The W.R.N.S. (Navy) was taking volunteers but at that period of the war only Sea Rangers. Some persuasion was required to convince her father that by volunteering early she would be sure of joining the Senior Service. Her aim was to be a W/T operator in the WRNS ("Wrens").

When Alice eventually arrived at the Millhill training depot she had a certificate tucked safely in her pocket, declaring that she was proficient in receiving and sending Morse code at 5 words a minute. But Alice was in the depot only 24 hours before discovering there was no W/T course available

then or at any future date. She was slated to become a "Messenger."

Every Wren stayed at Millhill for a fortnight of basic training, as for example, Alice states wryly, "How to walk on the lefthand side of the corridor and press oneself flat against the wall on the approach of an officer!"

Alice discovered that in training, "fatigues" were a fact of life. At Millhill she had to report at 5 a.m. to scrub a mile of concrete floor from the galley to the sick bay. After a week of sore, wet knees and a continuous draft for the length of the mile, she checked into the sick bay with laryngitis, unable to speak. She listened to the talk among the other patients and learned that everyone there was being drafted in two days on a W/T course, and not one was the slightest bit interested!

For someone who wouldn't say "boo!" to a goose, Alice relates, she did an amazing thing. She rushed up to the administration office in her dressing gown and requested to see everyone from the Leading Hand to the Wren Chief Officer. Shaking in her shoes, she faced the "Ma'am" and requested to join the W/T course. "There isn't one," came the reply. "Oh, yes there is!" she came back with some spirit, "and if I'm not drafted into it, I'll go home!" Fighting back a smile, "Ma'am" said she would order transport and send Alice to Finchley to join the course. Hastily kitted out and enrolled, Alice was the only fully-fledged Wren on the three month W/T course.

25 OR BUST!

At HMS Pembroke, a former boy's college, Alice in tin helmet spent every other night on fire duty, patrolling, while bombs rained on London. Her daylight hours were spent wearing headphones. Her classmates all held similar certifying declarations of 5 wpm capability. Whatever their previous instructors had thought of their abilities it was soon obvious their speeds were not 5 wpm. The CPO in charge soon gave up the struggle and started from scratch. Many fell by the wayside, but those who survived the sixth week were reading 25 wpm through any rubbish the airways could throw at them.

Although the work was hard, the days had their lighter moments. Alice recalls that the bane of their lives was the Wren Master-at-Arms, who seemed dedicated to making their off-duty hours a misery. How they laughed the day the loo (toilet) collapsed under her and she reported to sick bay for stitches! Word had it that the Sister (Nurse)-in-Charge was in stitches herself as she sewed up the damage.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

After three months the girls were transferred to a country house where they got their first glimpse of the inside of a wireless set. Notebooks were filled with sketches of valves (tubes), resistors and all those good things, and some time was reserved for receiving live from the airwaves. It was here the Wrens learned why their classrooms were devoid of keys: they were to become interceptor operators.

Following the theory course, Alice joined HMS Flowerdown at Winchester, sharing watches with the matelots, somewhat surprised that men had been trained to do the same job. With enemy traffic covered 24 hours a day, Alice recalls what a thrill it was to hear a ship or U-Boat and know that through one's own vigilance it was being plotted and the information relayed to friendly shipping. One of the "slow" frequencies monitored was that covering the Italian Navy, which was in port. For months nothing, but the night the Navy surrendered the Wren on duty caught the very first signal sent. She was commended for that.

TELLTALE FIST

The Italian operators had their own distinctive fists, and the Wrens got to know most of the operators by name. Not so with the Germans. Alice reports that they all sent as though through a computer, except for one man who had a slightly different style. He was a radio operator on the Scharnhorst. For a long time, Alice's station had informed the Admiralty that the Scharnhorst was active along the East coast of Britain, but the authorities insisted the ship was safe in a Norwegian fjord and they had aerial photographs to prove it. The Scharnhorst was eventually sighted on the East coast and Alice's station received a pat on the back. They had known all along by the sound of the operator's fist that the Scharnhorst was cruising --the fjord contained a wooden replica!

After some months, Alice was selected to join a H/F D/F course, ending up at the northernmost part of Scotland plotting ships and U-boats from an isolated hut in the middle of the Caithness moors. She thoroughly enjoyed her work but duty hours were spent alone in tiny cabins built in the most isolated places with no access roads. The Wrens had to walk for two or three miles from the base, following narrow tracks which wound their ways across the heath and around the bogs. It was less than fun meeting the long-horned Highland cattle on such occasions, especially in a thick mist, Alice recalls. Their former training involving meeting officers in hallways stood them well, as it was the Wrens who stepped off the path into the bog.

The POW camp for declared Nazis was about 7 miles from the camp. Wrens on duty thought nothing of the isolation on the moors until one night Alice left the hut to visit the loo during the middle watch and fell over a sailor, armed with a rifle, sleeping in the doorway. He had been sent up to guard the Wren on duty because another Nazi had escaped.

INVASION!

On one of her memorable nights she was coming off a watch during which it seemed they must have plotted every U- and E-boat in the German Navy, all in the English Channel. Firmly convinced England was being invaded and worried about her family living in Kent, Alice went off watch and was greatly relieved later when informed by a civilian in town that it was "our" forces that had invaded Europe. It was D-Day!

Alice was sent to another location to take a P.O. course which included learning Kana on special RIP-5 typewriters. Japanese stations were monitored direct and only at night (the only time signals were audible). Soon after the war, Alice was back "on Civvie Street" again. She tried to find employment at the Post Office and Marconi, but female operators were "no dice." So she found an equally satisfying occupation in nursing.

In all those years, Alice reports, she had never heard of amateur radio. It was only when her step-grandson Kevin came for a visit from New Zealand, carrying a H.F. set that he would take home, that she learned of the world of hams, OM's and YL's. Kevin had tried several times for his license, and it was a bit of a shock for him to learn that step-grandmama could copy code easily while his was barely workable at around 5 wpm.

Between OM Frank and Kevin, Alice insists she was dragged off by the scruff of the neck to study electronics. Soon, though, she was thoroughly enjoying the challenge. She wrote her exams and was awarded her amateur ticket.

OM Frank's interest centers around antennas and thanks to him Alice has quite a selection of dipoles, long-wires and beams which she says spring up like mushrooms around the place. Since their lovely old farmstead overlooks Bodmin Moor in Cornwall there is no one to complain about steel masts obliterating the view.

Oh Boy! Alice's radio shack would be the envy of those of us who make do with basements, odd corners and closets! It is a separate, small building with large windows overlooking the moor. Bright and airy inside and wonderfully organized, it even boasts a refreshment bar.

No bugs or paddles for Alice. "For me, a straight key means CW," she says. The CW portion of the band is the only place to listen for her, as she has had a lifelong fascination for code.

Next time you are tuning around the lower ends of the bands, when propagation is in for the U.K., do give a listen or a call for G0EEJ. With luck you just might be able to settle down for a chat with our most recent YL SOWP member, a most interesting lady.

73 --



CHAPTERS AT WORK AND PLAY by VP Bill Miller

This is the first of a quarterly reporting of chapter news. With your help we can share with the entire membership the fun and frolic, business and contributions to the whole that participation in chapter activities can lend to the Society.

We recommend that a public affairs person be appointed in each chapter, someone who has a "nose for news," who can be counted on to be aware of the "5 double-yew's" (Who, What, When, Where, Why). Send the reports to yours truly, Bill Miller, VP - Chapters, 217 Porterfield Pl., Freeport, NY 11520 and I'll integrate them into this column. Your deadline is immediately following each meeting of your chapter; a significant upcoming event may be announced enough in advance to inform readers in travel status in time for them to stop by and attend.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER

Roy Couzins, W6JET, got his feet wet as new meeting director on April 2. Roy did a good job, according to our correspondent. He took the reins from Paul Dane, who has become Exec. Director of the Society; Paul took home a plaque and Certificate of Outstanding Service in recognition of 7 years' work for the chapter.

Among the dignitaries seated at the head table at the Spring meeting was Bill Breniman, Paul Dane and Roy. Bill used some early moments to discuss upcoming publications with Walt Boyd, one of his two senior editors (see accompanying photo).

The Chapter is making preparations for the annual SOWP Fall Picnic in the Redwoods at Armstrong Woods State Park, just west of Guerneville, CA. There is travel-trailer and auto parking within a short walking distance to the picnic site. BYOPB (bring your own picnic basket).

INLAND SEAS CHAPTER

Regular elections of officers and members of the Board of Directors have been completed by Inland Seas Chapter XIV, SOWP, Columbus, Ohio.

Re-elected for a two-year term are: Chapter Director: Theodore K. "Ted" Phelps, W8TP; Asst Director, Robert R. "Bob" Ballantine, W8ISU; Secty-Treas, Lawrence R. "Larry" Pettengill, WA8HGH.

Elected to the Board: G.X.M. "George" Collier, W0EG; Ero Erickson, KA9DYS; Clarence "Kel" Kelley, W8ZLU; Earl W. Korf, K2IC; Francis J. "Frank" Schwab, W8OK. Ralph A. McDonough, K8AN, alternate.

GONZALES CHAPTER

The semi-annual meeting was held at the Captain's Palace Restaurant, Victoria, BC on April 9th. Dave Smith opened the meeting and turned the proceedings over to Norm Strand, newly elected director. Dave doubled as Secretary/Treasurer during past months pending elections, as well as acting director; a vote of thanks! All eleven attendees declared that a good time was had by each and all.

PICKERELL AND DEFOREST CHAPTERS

Things have been at a standstill in both chapters. As Chapter VP I call for letters or other communication with a view to getting things rolling again.

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

The 51st meeting of the 12 year old chapter was held on December 12, 1987. Next meeting was scheduled for the Anchor Inn, Wheaton, MD, though I have no date to report at the moment (remember the five doubleyews!).

MISSOURI-ARKANSAS AREA

There is a whisper in the wind of a chapter forming here. We await a shout from someone, with details.

* * *

THOUGHT: "Few people think more than two or three times a week. I have made an international reputation for myself by thinking once or twice a week."

—George Bernard Shaw

* * *

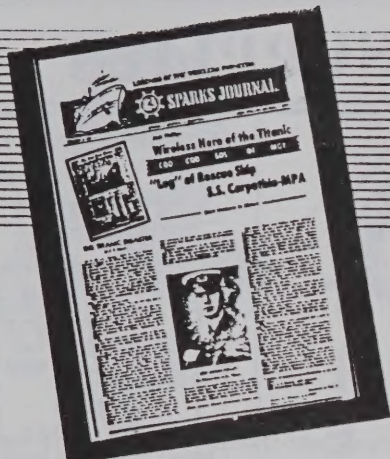
BILL JACKSON, Director of SOWP Chapter IX for the Pacific Southwest, (see Net Schedule Sheet elsewhere) calls for "...more areas of the U.S. to organize so that SOWP members can participate in more SOWP-related activities."

* * *

NEW MEMBERS

We Welcome

Ø267-TA George Hart, "George/," N1NJM, 66 Highland St, Newington, CT Ø6111
 Ø268-TA Louis Kruh, "Lou/Gladys," WB2EZK, 17 Alfred Road, West Merrick, NY
 Ø269-TA David O Norris, "Dave/Christine," N8HKV, 4463 Sunnymead, Burton, MI
 4773-P William J. Beltz, "Bill/," K1PTV, 26 Franklin St., Lyons, NY 14489
 4774-M Urbano Cavina, "Urb/Bruna," I4YTE, Via Bartolo Rossi 97, Forli, Italy
 4775-M Martin Cyr, "Martin/," VE7CYR, POB 1444 Stn A-Kelowna, BC, Canada
 4776-M Christopher Thompson, "Chris/," WA4ZBF, 517-A Cedar Rd., Chesapeake, VA
 4777-V Edward J. Kowalczyk, "Ed/," W8ZQK, 6Ø11 Elizabeth, Dearborn Hts, MI 48127
 4778-V John G. C. King, "John/," G4RBJ, 66 Ship'm Rd Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1NN
 4779-V David L. Thompson, "Dave/," W6VQB, 18249 73rd Ave, NE, Bothell, WA 98Ø11
 478Ø-M Scott A. Newell, "Scott/," KA8HOK, 54 SummitGlen Dr., Pataskala, OH 43Ø62
 4781-V Lauren H. Clark, "L/Marguerite," W6GEF, 1ØØ5 Quarry Ct., Yreka, CA 96Ø79
 4782-P Frank A Chapman, "Chappie/Jean," KClGZ, 14 Highland Ct, Hadley, MA Ø1Ø35
 4783-V Saul Fingerman, "Saul/," K2IE, 35-14 77th St., Jackson Hts, NY 11373
 4784-P Capt Pelletier, USN(ret), N4JXU, "Al/Dorothy," 2Ø3 ParkAve SE, Milton, FL
 4785-V Milton Nohowec, "Milt/Marjorie," W2NHW, 369 Lincoln Ave, Sayville, NY
 4786-V Donald Crist, "Don/Charlotte," N6IOU, 6213 Oakcreek Way, Citrus Hts, CA
 4787-V C. Moncur, "Charlie/," GM4BAG, 46C High St, Kirriemr, Angus, Scotland
 4788-V Paul L. Murphy, "Paul/Merle," KE9FM, RR1 Box 75, Dieteerich, IL 62424
 4789-V Roy Coffin, "Hooker/Ethel," KAØZIJ, 331 Center St, Mayville, ND 58257
 479Ø-P Kaye Palmer, "Kip/Anne," W4LSI, 1 Adriatic Dr., Hampton, VA 23664
 4791-M Charles M Brydges, "Chuck/Judi," W4WXZ, 49Ø1Tiffany Ave, Winston-Salem NC
 4792-V Maynard J Lonis, "/Betty," W2MXE, 7Ø1 Kent St., Phoenix, NY 13135
 4793-V John J. Lee, "/Helen," W6BEB, 6544 Randi Ave, Canoga Park CA 913Ø3
 4794-P Robert Myhre, "/Ina," KC4APD, Rt 12 Bx 251, Crossville, TX 38555
 4795-V William W Yankewicz, "Bill/," VE4XW, POB15, Beausejour, Manitoba, CANADA
 4796-M Rodney Tinney, "Rod/Debra," KB6AHQ, POB 1Ø57, New Boston, TX 7557Ø
 4797-M Kenichi Yamaguchi "Ken/," JR5DMS, 1Ø3Minato Sakaiminato, Tottori 684 JAPAN
 4798-V Byron W O'Neil, "Jack/Shirley," N6NWR, 3455 Blflwr Blvd, LongBeach CA
 4799-M Kenneth J Kendall, "Ken/," W9JVO, 1343 Landwehr, Northbrook, IL 6ØØ62
 48ØØ-P Alfred C Weed, Jr. "Al/Maria," W4DJ, 36Ø1 Colony Rd, Fairfax, VA 22Ø3Ø
 48Ø1-V Jack A Smith, "Jack/," W7JQY, 332Ø Peninsula Rd349, Oxnard, CA 93Ø35
 48Ø2-V Duane Eyman, "Mike/Kay," WØXM, RR2 Garnett, KS 66Ø32
 48Ø3-V Albert Gust, "Al/Shirley," KA9ZZV, 1142 WestoverRd, FtWayne, IN 468Ø7
 48Ø4-P William F Goetter, "Bill/Helen," N7IPN, 12Ø Stone Rd, Sequim, WA 98382
 48Ø5-P Elza G Runkle, Jr, "Runk/," NØIXM, 2Ø6 W Hortense St, Box 366, Orrick, MO
 48Ø6-M Mark W B Beezer, "Brown/," WALNZR, POB 31, Jamestown, RI Ø2835
 48Ø7-V Raymond D Balch, "Ray/," K6VX, 2Ø6Ø6 MapleTreePl., Cupertino, CA 95Ø14
 48Ø8-V Boyd D Crosby, "Bingo/Doris," P O Box 2ØØ7, Guerneville, CA 95446
 48Ø9-V Ralph R Evans, "/Midge," W6ENE, 2133 Thomas Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577
 481Ø-M Donald J Copeland, "Don/Sandy," W7DPV, 1413 SE Salmon, Portland, OR 97214
 4811-SGP Lucien A Delson, "Lu/Toni(W4KJE)," W4JV, 4455 Marlane Dr, Pensacola FL
 4812-V Franklin W Hurt, "Frank/Emilia," W7LYJ, 237 SE 111th Av, Portland, OR
 4813-P Frank I Stacy, "/", "W4ZTH, 19492 SW 87 Ct, Miami, FL 33157
 4814-M Eskil Eriksson, "/Daisy," SM4AWC, Storgatan 1, S71Ø Fellingsbro, SWEDEN



SPARKS JOURNAL

SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS INC

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

★ ★ ★ ★

PART ONE

EMERGENCY - NEED FOR SPACE - SPECIAL OFFER ON SPARKS JOURNAL STOCK

DURING THE PERIOD SPARKS JOURNAL WAS BEING PUBLISHED, WE ALWAYS PLACED PRINT ORDERS FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 OVER NEED FOR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CIRCULATION. THIS DUE TO THE NEED TO OBTAIN QUANTITY PRINTER PRICE AND PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE COPIES NECESSARY TO MAIL NEW MEMBERS JOINING WHICH AT TIMES RAN OVER ONE HUNDRED MONTHLY, HENCE SEVERAL HUNDRED EXTRA COPIES WERE NEEDED.

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS HAVE INCREASED TO THE POINT SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM HENCE WE WOULD LIKE TO DISPOSE OF ALL OLD SPARKS JOURNAL COPIES TO MAKE WAY FOR NEEDED SPACE. SINCE THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF EACH JOURNAL ON TODAY'S MARKET SHOULD EXCEED TWENTY DOLLARS EACH, IN FACT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN EACH JOURNAL, IT WOULD BE ALMOST SACRILEGIOUS TO TAKE THEM TO THE DUMP. HENCE, BELIEVING MEMBERS WOULD LIKE COPIES TO FILL OUT THEIR FILE - ESPECIALLY NEWER MEMBERS, WE ARE MAKING THE FOLLOWING OFFER:

WE OFFER TO SEND 25 COPIES (NO TWO THE SAME) TO ANY MEMBER ORDERING FOR ONE DOLLAR EACH PLUS \$5.00 SHIPPING CHARGE VIA UPS. SINCE WE ARE SHORT ON SOME ISSUES, WE WILL SEND WHAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE STARTING WITH VOL. 1 NO. 1. SHOULD WE BE UNABLE TO FILL ORDERS FOR 25 ISSUES, WE WILL APPLY A CREDIT OF \$1 FOR EACH WE ARE UNABLE TO FURNISH TO A SLOP CHEST ACCOUNT. (*) IF UNABLE TO ORDER 25, ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR 12 COPIES FOR \$15.00 - UPS PAID. WE NEED STREET DELIVERY ADDRESSES FOR UPS SHIPMENTS. ALSO MAKE CHECKS OUT TO THE SOCIETY AND SEND TO CHARLES J. COLEMAN, 2585 BROOKHAVEN DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405. DO NOT INCLUDE DUES IN THESE CHECKS.

PART TWO WANTED - EDITOR/PUBLISHER FOR "SPARKS JOURNAL"

DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS SOWP FOUNDER, BILL BRENNAN HAS ACCUMULATED HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF HISTORICAL ARTICLES AMONG WHICH HE HAS PROCESSED SEVERAL HUNDRED MANUSCRIPTS WHICH ARE READY FOR PASTE-UP IN SPARKS JOURNAL FORMAT. THE SOCIETY URGENTLY NEEDS SOME ONE WHO IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORY IN THE COMMUNICATION FIELD, AND WHO HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE OF PRINTING TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND EFFORT TO THIS END FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS IF POSSIBLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THE SPARKS JOURNAL AS A SOCIETY PUBLICATION AS IT HAS BROUGHT MUCH PRESTIGE AND RENOWN TO THE SOCIETY AS CAN BE VERIFIED BY THE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS. FORMER EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF "SJ" BILL BRENNAN NOW IN HIS LATE EIGHTIES IS PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO CONTINUE PUBLICATION BUT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST ANY WHO VOLUNTEER TO CONTINUE THIS UNDERTAKING. THE SOCIETY CAN NOT AFFORD TO PAY ANYONE FOR TIME & SERVICE BUT WE WILL REIMBURSE FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES. PLEASE WRITE PAUL N. DANE, DIRECTOR AT THE SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ADDRESS 146 COLEEN STREET LIVERMORE CALIF. 94550. PHONE 415/447-6355. [W6WOW). PLEASE HELP !

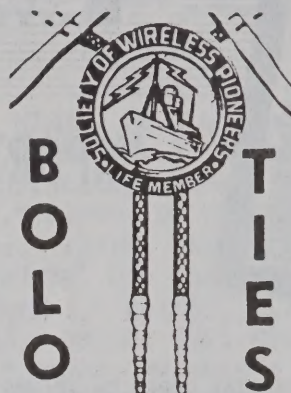
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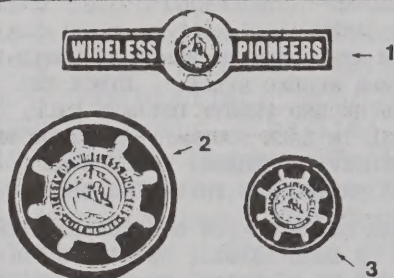


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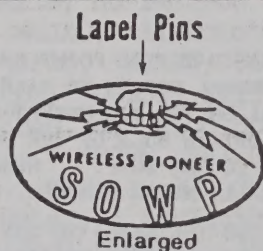
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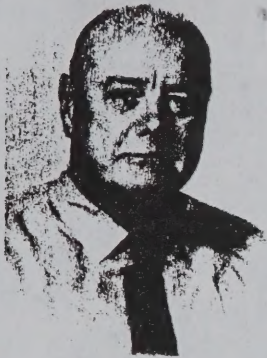
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[K6ZUR] 707/546-7326

CHARLES J. COLEMAN

2585 BROOKHAVEN DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405 USA

cx



Donald K. deNeuf

1906 1988

It is my sad duty to report the death of Donald K. deNeuf on July 24 1988. He has served the Society as President since Jan. 1 1987. The Munson-Lovetere Funeral home in Woodbury, Ct. reported a memorial service will be held Aug. 3 1988 at the Southbury United Church of Christ. Executive Director Paul Dane is making suitable arrangements for a token of our admiration and affection for the memorial.

"Don" is perhaps one of the best known individuals in the Communications field. He has had world-wide experience in many fields in our country and abroad. Exceptionally gifted and an expert in many fields. During later years of his life, he has become a dedicated historian. During his operating years as ship operator and having visited the Pyramids he remarked ..." I shudder at leaving a vacuum on some of the history of past telecommunications ! I hope we won't have a repetition in telecoms as has happened in parts of the archeological field. Just how the Pyramids were constructed is still not fully understood because nobody took the time to record the details". I hope this does not happen in the telecommunications field.

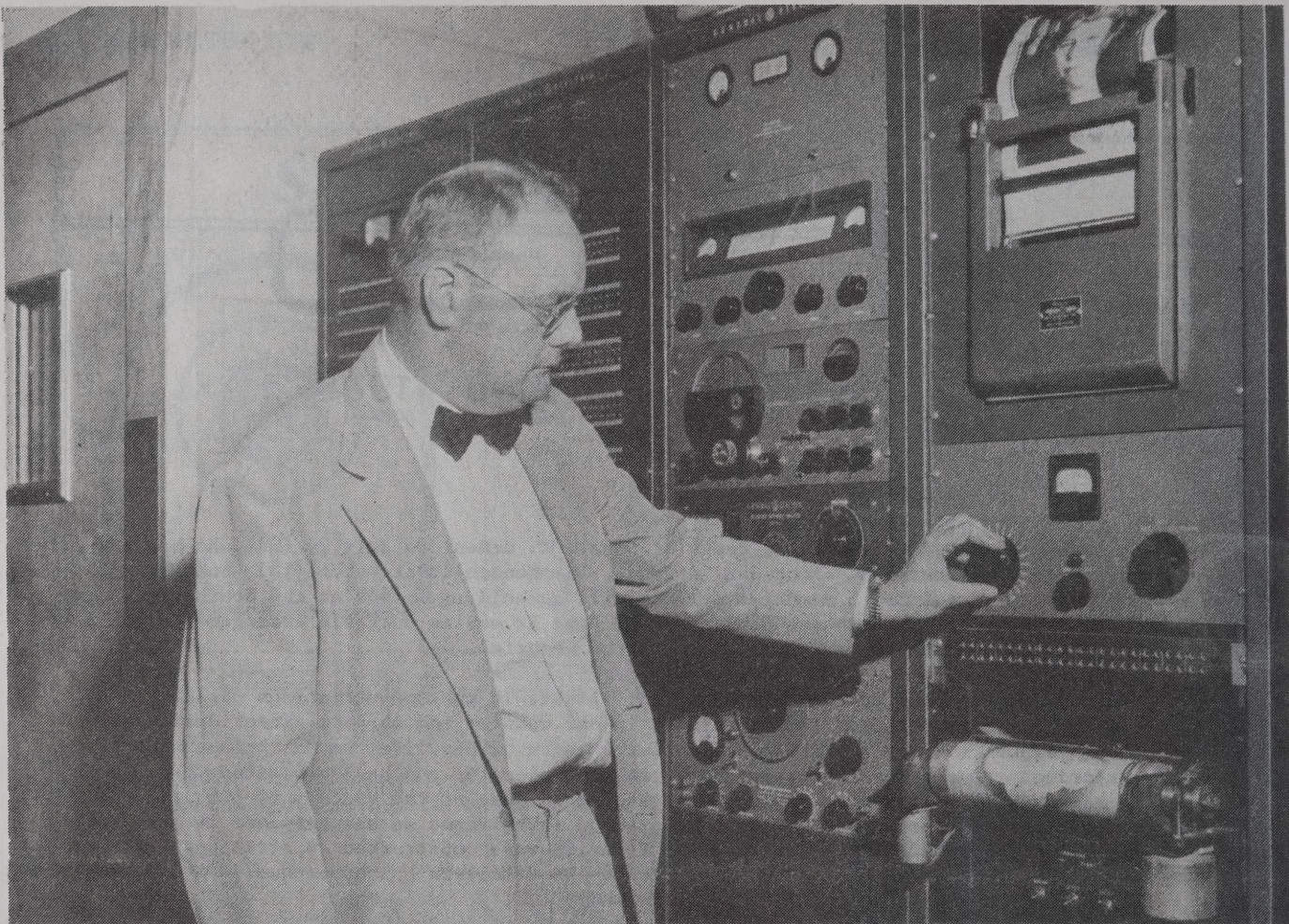
Here is a bit of statistical information on our late President: He was born in Seattle Washington in 1906. Deceased at the age of 82 he left his wife Ruth, a step-son and two daughters and ten grandchildren.

Don became interested in wireless at age 9 - sending code via flashlight to a friend who was also fascinated by the 'dot and dash' business. He received his ham call "6ACZ" at age 14. Hearing an "SOS" from the Liner SS Alaska launched him on a lifetime of radio and telecommunications. The year 1925 found him at the key of "WML" [SS Lurline - Matson Line]. He also pounded brass on "big ships of that day" SS Matsonia (on which Ye Ed sailed five years earlier (1919)). Then after 22 trips to the "Islands" he made 2 trips "ATW" (Around the world on the SS Pres. Polk and Pres. Garfield). 1927 received his coveted "Pink ticket"; 1928-30 MRI for RMCA then joined Press Wireless (1st time) and worked up to V.P. He left to join the USN and saw service on the Atlantic hunting subs. He also graduated from the Roosevelt Aviation School as a pilot but spent little time in this field. He soloed in 1933. Married XYL Ruth who he met in a hospital recovering from a serious automobile accident circa 1938. After a period of time in Australia for Telecom interests he rejoined Press Wireless - [See Story of "PREWI" in Sparks Journal, Vol. 6 No. 2 - Starting on page 32 - a Special feature]. He remained as President of Press Wireless until it was acquired by ITT in 1965. During this period he was also a member of the ad-hoc Satellite Communications Committee which led to establishment of "COMSAT" by the Congress in 1962.

Much more could be written about this brilliant man - our President! Among his Awards were those from the Society of Wireless Pioneers. Also The Houck award by AWA; The Ralph Batcher award by Radio Club of America; Gold Medal of Honor by VWOA; Life Member IEEE; 60-Year Golden Award by QCWA; Honorary Member Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society (1978); He was made a Knight Officer of the Italian Order of Merit in 1964 for his Medical aid service to ships at sea.

Farewell to a fine member and Gentleman. We shall always remember you "OM"!!

Wm A. Breniman - Founder SOWP



Q T C

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